

Chairman Waukau's Notes November 18, 2002

Poso My Fellow Menominees:

The Legislative Primary held last week has shaken out the field to six candidates who all look to have something to offer the tribe for leadership in these very difficult times. Congratulations to all those Menominees who had the courage to throw their hat in the ring and who ran a very clean, issue oriented campaign and a special congratulations to Mike Chapman, Laurie Boivin, Laurie Reiter, Theodore Warrington, Sylvia Wilber, and Gene Caldwell who made the final ballot. The finals will be held January 8 & 9 2003.

Congratulations are also in order to Judy Duquain who will be the next Chief of Police and will be sworn in on February 9, 2003.

The Tribe is also delighted with the results of the governor's race and I will be meeting with Governor-elect Doyle within the next two weeks. He looks to be a man that we can do business with and we will need to get our issues to the Governor-elect on our off reservation gaming facility if we want to make this happen for our tribe. The window of opportunity will close on the national level as the Land Into Trust issues heats up thus making it more difficult for tribes to get off reservation gaming sites. So speed is essential. We have been talking to a major player in the gaming industry, but we will make no announcement until both they and the tribe are in agreement.

I just returned from the annual conference of the National Congress of American Indians. The major issues nationally are the protection of Tribal sovereignty. The Supreme Court is very Republican and very conservative and they are not at all sensitive to our Tribal rights. Under the Rehnquist Court we have seen a steady diminishment of our sovereignty. Gaming, of course, was a major topic. Power in the Indian world has shifted to those tribes that have big casinos. Many California Tribes may have as few as 100 enrolled members and they have gained federal tribal recognition for gaming purposes. Here we sit with recognition as Native people for 10,000 years with over 8,000 members and we will have to fight like tigers to get a favorable location.

The Legislature and the administrative staff is working on making the Annual General Council more user friendly for our tribal members so that we can give the people as much information as they need in a friendly format. If you have any suggestions, please call my office.

Community meetings will be held December 3rd and 4th.

Look for Legislator Wilber to do the next Legislative update.

Sincerely,

Lisa Waukau
Honorable Tribal Chairman